

ABSTRACT

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A surface light source device of side light type and a prism sheet to be used in the device are improved in such a manner that a reflecting sheet is prevented from being seen as observed from the exiting surface side, thus improving the quality of illumination light to be emitted from the exiting surface. The prism sheet (12) disposed along the exiting surface of a light guide plate of the device is a light permeable sheet made of, for example, polycarbonate and having a prismatic surface on at least one side relatively near a scattering light guide plate (2). The prismatic surface has many projections extending substantially parallel to the incidence end surface (T) of the scattering light guide plate (2) and repeatedly arranged from the side of incidence end surface (T) toward the distal end of a wedge shape of the light guide plate (2). The prism sheet (12) allows the main component of illumination light (L1) from the scattering light guide plate (2) to come inside from the light-source-side slopes (M1) of the projections and then emits the main component from the roughened existing slopes (M2) with diffused reflection, thus widening the angle of propagation of light while correcting curb the main emitting direction of illumination light frontwards relative to the exiting surface.

(FIG. 1)